

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort de Chartres

AND/OR COMMON

Fort de Chartres State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Illinois Highway 155

CITY, TOWN

Prairie du Rocher

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24

STATE

Illinois

CODE

17

COUNTY

Randolph

CODE

157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Parks and Memorials

STREET & NUMBER

100 State Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Randolph County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chester

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1940

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress/Annex, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☐ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present reconstructed Fort de Chartres is on the site of the third French stronghold of that name. Construction on this third and last fort was begun in 1753 and completed three years later. It had huge stone walls, eighteen feet high and more than two feet thick, enclosing about four acres. It was one of the most complex fortifications in North America, with a bastion at each of four corners and a massive gatehouse. The fort included two long barracks, guard house, officer's quarters, powder magazine, kitchen and outbuildings, arranged around the parade ground. The fort could accomodate a garrison of 400 men but usually held half that number.

In 1772 the fort was evacuated and destroyed. Only the magazine and a few other traces remained above ground in 1915, when the site was purchased by the State of Illinois. The original foundations of several buildings and much of the wall were exposed and built up to a level several feet above the ground. A few buildings were completely reconstructed: the gatehouse, guard house, chapel, and the storehouse. The latter is now in use as park headquarters and museum. The powder magazine has been stabilized, but needs roof repairs. Several small modern structures and a parking area have been added in the immediate area.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1756-1772

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort de Chartres was in the 18th Century the center of French civil and military government of the Illinois Country and was one of France's most impressive fortifications in North America.

The present reconstructed fort is on the site of the third outpost in the vicinity to bear the name de Chartres. The first fort, about 18 miles north Kaskaskia, was built and rebuilt in 1720 and 1727 respectively on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The second Fort de Chartres was built in 1742 at the same distance from the river but this post too was abandoned and fell into disrepair. Construction of the third and last fort was begun in 1753 and completed three years later. The new fort had massive stone walls, 18 feet high and more than two feet thick enclosing about four acres. The fort included two long barracks, guard house, officers quarter, powder magazine, kitchen and outbuildings, arranged around the parade ground. The fort could accommodate a garrison of 400 men but usually was manned by only half that number.

Despite the official end of French sovereignty in America in 1763, a French garrison occupied the fort until October 1765 when English troops moved in. The fort was renamed Cavendish and was the center of British administration of the Illinois Country until 1772 when it was finally evacuated and destroyed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

C. W. Alvord, The Illinois Country, 1673-1818, 1, The Centennial History of Illinois, (5 vols. Chicago, 1922). James Gray, The Illinois in The Rivers of America series, (New York, 1940). "Fort de Chartres State Park," pamphlet published by the State of Illinois, Division of Parks and Memorials, n.d.. Justin Winsor, Narrative and Critical History of America, vol. 5 (8 vols., Boston 1886-89). Charles E. Shedd, Jr., "Fort de Chartres State Park," Historic Sites Survey, 1958.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY C. 1,120

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 750960 4218940
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 15 751300 4217370

B 15 751480 4217650
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 15 750430 4217225

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 15.748285.4218005
F 15.747885.4218250
G 15.747300.4220095
H 15.747720.4220595
I 15.748565.4220440

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, National Park Service

DATE

1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated
date
Boundary Certified:
date
April 11, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Fort de Chartres

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Ft. de Chartres National Historic Landmark is the red line drawn around the boundary of the proposed Ft. de Chartres State Park as shown on the accompanying Ft. de Chartres Master Plan map. Sufficient data is not presently available for an accurate or meaningful verbalization of the boundary.

Boundary Justification

In consultation with the Illinois SHPO the Ft. de Chartres boundary has been drawn to include the lands presently owned by the State and also those lands proposed for acquisition and inclusion in the Illinois State Park. The national historic landmark resources within the boundary consist of the third Ft. Chartres and the sites of: Forts de Chartres one and two, the village of Chartres, and the Michigami Indian village site. These sites are scheduled for archeological investigation (as of 1977). See the accompanying maps for the existing resources and the proposed developments.